

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



## W A R T I M E E X T E N S I O N W O R K

### SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS. BASED ON STATE REPORTS

— 0 —

Developments in the feed situation, including a survey of cooperative feed buying; success of 4-H "Feed a fighter in '43" campaign; and county organization for fire prevention and control are high lights in this week's summary.

— 0 —

#### TEXAS

July 1, 1943

Cooperative feed buying.— To find basis for estimating extent of cooperative feed buying in Texas, survey was made in 18 Gulf Coast counties. Results; Pooling of farmers' orders and cooperative purchases had been carried on in 17 counties for total of 418 carloads, including 243 of feed wheat, 105 of maize, and 70 of mixed feeds, corn, cottonseed or soybean meals, citrus pulp, etc. Largest buyers were Lee County, 72; Burleson, 66; and Fayette, 44 carloads.

Savings to farmers varied with kind of feed. Average for all counties was \$456 per car; total for district, \$190,760. Estimated conservatively, cooperative buying of feed in entire State would be 6 times total for this district, or about 2,500 carloads, with grand total saving over normal retail purchase of about \$1,144,500.

Cooperative health units.— To relieve burden on medical facilities caused by entry of doctors, dentists, and nurses into armed forces, Extension, through county agents, is encouraging adoption of cooperative prepaid medical plans. Groups of farm people form associations in which they spread cost of medical care among many persons, pool their money in advance, and make agreements with local doctors to care for their families at a definite cost. This plan has been promoted by county agents in 9 of 12 extension districts.

4-H food production.— With full cooperation of commanding general of U. S. Eighth Corps Service Command, over 300 Texas 4-H Club boys were honored during June for outstanding food-production records. Recognition took form of receptions of groups of club boys, sponsors, and county agricultural agents by commanding officers and subordinates at four airfields and three Army posts. Boys who had carried out Texas 4-H slogan, "Feed a fighter in '43," were selected from counties in each district to share recognition. Each was presented with insignia, "I feed a fighter," on arrival at airfield or Army post. They were conducted over fields and allowed to inspect barracks, warehouses, soldiers' equipment; and learned about training program, types of airplanes, simulated fighting conditions in field, target ranges, and artillery. They ate with soldiers, rode in jeeps, and at two fields flew in Link trainer. At one airfield boy with particularly outstanding record was chosen as representative of 90 boys present to share with commanding general the honor of reviewing cadets at close of day.

Livestock.— Major part of beef cattle specialists' field work given to locating and selecting calves for 4-H Club boys, many of whom have pledged themselves to produce meat required to feed men from their counties in armed forces. As a rule, boys buy 400- and 500-pound calves and get as much weight as possible during summer by pasturing Sudan grass. This produces economical gain and reduces quantity of grain needed to finish calves for market. Some of boys expect to have calves in feed lot only 50 to 60 days.

Field days held at Lyndale and Beeville Experiment Stations to emphasize necessity for increasing beef-cattle production. Special attention given to control of animal parasites and need of mineral supplement. Because of lack of bone meal, specialists recommended trying mixture of 100 pounds salt, 100 pounds cottonseed meal, and 300 pounds dicalcium phosphate (fluorine free). Phosphate palatable to livestock is hard to get, but it is hoped addition of cottonseed meal will cause cattle to eat it.

Agronomy.— District grain-grading schools held in five producing areas to make grain handlers, farmers, and others more closely acquainted with procedures in grading, storing, and marketing of grains. Schools included instruction and practice in grading wheat, grain sorghums, and soybeans; discussions on grain improvement, seed treatment, good storage practices, and insect control. New wheat variety, Comanche, was discussed in connection with wheat-improvement program. Comanche is cross of Tenmarq and Oro and is expected to become popular in Texas. It is improvement over Tenmarq — one of best varieties — because it is several days earlier, somewhat better on yield and test weight, and has equally excellent baking qualities. Variety was named in 1942 and seed released for demonstration and increase purposes. Considerable seed available for 1943 fall planting but demand probably will exceed supply. New combined types of milo rapidly replacing older types; large acreage planted. They are good yielders and suitable for machine harvesting.

Wool and mohair.— In spite of shortage of quality graders, about 1 million pounds of mohair out of spring clip was graded under supervision of extension marketing specialist and sold on graded basis. Also 60,000 pounds of wool was graded and is offered for appraisal under Government purchase plan. Mohair-grading program gained additional support from growers and warehouses. Program encourages culling of goat flocks — important now when all available meat is needed. Wool grading is on experimental basis to determine whether Texas growers should offer wool to Government on graded or original-bag basis. Activities under way to develop more satisfactory marketing plan for wool and mohair. In future, competition with foreign wools and synthetic fibers will force wool and mohair to meet higher standards of quality and be offered to trade in more usable and attractive condition.

Home markets.— Home industries specialist demonstrated egg grading according to OPA standards and discussed marketing of graded eggs with 45 home demonstration agents in two extension districts. Eggs have been graded and sold in sealed cartons by small groups of farm families in 14 counties for 2 years. These groups are expected to be nucleus of greater cooperative movement in selling eggs graded by OPA standards. Demonstrations on preparing vegetables for market were given these same agents, who in turn demonstrated to groups of rural women who wanted to supply families in nearby towns and cities with vegetables for canning. Suggestions were also given on marketing country-fresh vegetables to townspeople.



Educational work on income tax.- Program undertaken throughout State to help farm people understand "why" and "how" of national tax policies and how to determine their taxable income and permissible deductions. Agents were trained for job at round-table discussions led by farm-management specialist, with assistance of Internal Revenue officials and printed aids. Agents in 156 counties held total of 859 meetings attended by 35,672 farmers. Tax service offices were set up in 28 counties in cooperation with local farm organizations and other groups. Reports indicate farm people all over State were glad to have the assistance offered.

Negro activities.- Negro boys' 4-H Clubs competed at two district hog shows; 10 counties represented at each. Winners in gilt and boar classes received registered Jersey heifer calves; cash prizes awarded other winners.

Seventeen big-boned Poland China pigs, bought through Farm Security Administration, have been placed with as many Rusk County negro 4-H Club boys. After visiting the boys, negro extension workers report that most of them have met all requirements as to self-feeders and pastures.

In Cherokee County 10 negro 4-H boys have received 9 gilts and 1 male purebred Duroc Jersey hog, bred by white 4-H Club members from gilts placed with them a year ago. The boys have provided themselves with fenced hog lots of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre planted to Sudan grass.

#### VIRGINIA

July 1, 1943

Victory Gardens.- Victory Gardens are booming throughout State and old and new gardeners clamoring for information to help do job better. Fall garden plantings well under way; preliminary distribution of planting guide, 15,000. In past 8 weeks, 75 meetings on home gardens and tomato production held with attendance of 1,876; few meetings on beans, cabbage, and other truck crops.

Feed.- General publicity given to feed-shortage situation, and all livestock specialists making recommendations for conservation of protein feeds. Further work on this problem now being planned. Agronomists emphasizing greater hay and pasture production.

Livestock.- Held one sale of registered sheep. Prepared and distributed circular on phenothiazine for treating sheep. Selected and distributed purebred pigs for 4-H projects in four additional counties.

Poultry.- Specialists worked in 38 counties: Visited 230 farms, held 6 culling and vaccination demonstrations, held 24 meetings with attendance of 397.

Dairying.- Five meetings held and systematic farm visits made to promote 8-point dairy feeding and management program to increase milk production. Breeding emphasized in Henrico and Wise Counties as part of management program to assure maximum production. General work in several other counties on feeding, management, and disease control. Correspondence concerning "more milk" usually heavy. Demonstrations on cheese making and discussions of small-herd management given to home demonstration clubs in Spotsylvania County. Special instruction on handling milk, making butter and cheese on the farm given to home agents in refresher course at V.P.I.,

Home furnishings and equipment.- Augusta County clubs following plan of work based on five types of conservation clinics: Upholstering furniture; slip-covering furniture; refinishing furniture; sewing-machine care, repair, and adjustment; electrical equipment care and repair. Each club decided on one or more clinics most needed. May clinics handled 63 pieces of furniture, 36 pieces of electrical equipment, 15 sewing machines. Many club members report giving help to neighbors after learning how at clinics. Fairfax County reports 10 sewing-machine clinics handling 189 machines and 217 replacement parts. Rockingham County reports 53 machines cleaned and adjusted and owners of approximately 150 other machines given instruction.

#### WYOMING

July 1, 1943

Farm labor.- Labor committees set up in all counties to assist agent in handling labor demands. Local assistants appointed in most populous counties, and offices functioning actively to make best use of available labor. Surveys made in all counties to show labor needs and seasonal demands. Labor committees taking steps to obtain use of war prisoners from two concentration camps. Military officers in charge of camps are cooperative, and it now seems that such labor may be procured for beans and beets, and perhaps for few other crops where large group of men can be used. State Advisory Labor Committee now set up and assuming responsibility. Information from all counties shows total of 1,743 laborers placed in June - 1,163 men, 494 youth, and 86 women.

Insect control.- Grasshoppers and crickets are serious menace in half a dozen Wyoming counties. Mixing stations to provide poison have been set up, and farmers whose crops are threatened are poisoning with good results. Garden insects are bad, and agents' offices are kept busy answering telephone calls and giving advice on treatment. Bulletins, newspaper publicity, and circular letters used to carry information to gardeners on how to protect their crops.

Fire protection and control.- Counties being reorganized for fire protection and control under much the same plan as last year. Counties divided into zones with wardens, assistant wardens, and work foremen in charge. In four counties fire-prevention training schools were held in June and certificates issued to those who were trained. In several counties fires have occurred already, but prompt arrival of fire fighters prevented serious damage. At one fire, 7 miles from Thermopolis, 12 men with proper equipment, answering their first fire call, arrived within 20 minutes after the fire was reported.

Food and feed situation.- Special effort made to inform people of serious food and feed situation, and get them to replant garden crops and save every available acre for feed crops. Special stories given press; one directed to dairy-men, another to stockmen, and third to poultry producers. Radio broadcast prepared for agents in six counties where there were broadcasting stations, bearing on subject of food and feed shortages. Specialists reinforce these efforts by sending out information on planting and replanting.

Food production and preservation.- Continuing effort made to increase food production through radio, newspapers, meetings, and 4-H Victory clubs. Intensive demonstration campaign on canning, drying, freezing, and brining under way. Committees set up in all counties to ration pressure cookers to obtain their widest use when and if any become available. Pressure cooker gages being tested by home demonstration agents and by Fumell Research Laboratory. Wall cards prepared and distributed on care of pressure cookers.

Clothing. - Increasing demands coming in for information on how to buy, launder, and care for new dress fabrics. With sewing machines now off market, more work is being done on cleaning and adjusting machines.



10. 11. 1912. 10. 11. 1912.